

Santa Fe River Commission
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Santa Fe River Commission

MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2017

Frances Lucero, Stenographer

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

**Santa Fe River Commission Agenda
Thursday, April 13, 2017 (Round House Room), 6 pm to 8 pm
City Offices at the Market Station Building at the Railyard
500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM**

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

John Buchser, Chair
Phil Bové
F.M. Patorni
Luke Pierpont
Zoe Isaacson
Jerry Jacobi
Dale Doremus
Emile Sawyer

NOT PRESENT:

Anna Hansen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melissa McDonald, Staff Liaison
Scott Caseman, Santa Fe River Greenway Project
Alan Hook, City Staff
Andrew Erdman, City Staff
Zoe, City Staff
Alex Puglisi, City Staff
Bobbie Besold, Rivers Run Through
David Groenfeld, Water Culture Institute
Malia Spaid-Reitz, Acequia Cerro Gordo
Bruce Reitz, Acequia Cerro Gordo
Neil Williams, Audience
Amy P.
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move Santa Fe River Greenway Project after approval of minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Jacobi moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Pierpont, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 9, 2017

**Corrections: Index: Spelling of Mr. Patorni not ~~Faterni~~
Page 2 – Corrections of January Meeting: to target slow flow releases**

Page 3 – 2nd Paragraph, last sentence: of the flood ~~plane~~ plain and get water to the Natures Conservancy

Page 4: 6th Paragraph: Chair Buchser ~~Buesher~~

MOTION: Mr. Pierpont moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2017 as amended, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES /COMMITTEES

Scott Caseman, Project Manager for Santa Fe County River Greenway Project has been in that position for about 3 years. He has been with the County for approximately 9 years. Mr. Caseman said that they are very close on the Frenchy's/Siler stretch to start construction. They have been working very hard to acquire all of the property that is necessary to build the project; it was 17 Parcels comprising 21 acres. There were several landowners that were not supportive of the project. They have all of the property acquired except for 1 property that is under condemnation right now, the petition has been filed and will soon be filing the motion for immediate possession. It is about 5,000 sq. ft., they are moving forward. They will be advertising the RFP at the end of April, it will be a 30-day response period, 2 weeks to make a determination and evaluate the proposals, negotiations and a contract. July 1st is the target date to start the construction on Frenchy's field to Siler Bridge of the project. They will begin at the pedestrian bridge where the city left off, (a map was provided to view the description). The plans call for removing all types of construction material that has been dumped. There are some old crossing structures that will be removed. (The description provided referred to Section A). He continued to explain Section B, they have begun acquisitions, and they have acquired two properties in that section and will hope to be done with all acquisitions in 18 months. They have 30% conceptual design in section B that goes to San Isidro and they already own a chunk in the south end, they do not have construction budget. If they do not acquire funding they will have to wait until 2020 for the next round of general obligation bonds. Mr. Caseman offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Doremus asked if the map was available on line. Mr. Caseman said that he will work to get it posted.

Ms. McDonald expressed her thanks and said that this is going to be a very high quality project.

Mr. Caseman stated that they are doing any RFP in order to get the qualifications needed, experience with natural bolder structures, still cost based. The RFP will be a sealed bid.

Ms. McDonald stated that the city requires a GF-98 or GF-4 helps find contractors that know how to build this.

The Chair asked for the expected completion for the Frenchy's - Siler section. Mr. Caseman anticipates 5 to 6 months, weather dependent. They will wait to do the planting of the willows and the cotton woods until the spring.

Ms. McDonald stated that the City will take over this trail once it is completed.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- **Living River Target Flows Hydrograph Update (Alan Hook)**
(Exhibit A viewed on the overhead)

Mr. Hook verbally explained the graph to the Commissioners and guests. Total they are 670 acre feet of the 740 acre feet for the year. Mr. Hook and Ms. McDonald have been in discussion to extend it through April 30th instead of cutting it off starting Saturday for the for new target year. What that means is they could do 2CFS for rest of period however there is construction at De Fouri Street Bridge. They had planned to go through April 30th and pick up May 1st for a new hydrograph for 2017. The new hydrograph is based on administrative procedures and the NRCS forecast highlighted shows that they will not be at 100% stream flow yield for the Santa Fe River this year, it is at 76%.

Mr. Jacobi asked if it will go through the reserves or bi-pass. Bi-pass gate closed but there is still leakage.

Ms. McDonald said that could be a recommendation from this committee that she can ask about. She did say that she spoke to Mr. Bob Finley earlier this week and he did say that he didn't need water right now in terms of the beaver health.

Alex Puglisi said that the irrigation system has started so part of the original flow that still goes through the gate and it is too hard to separate.

Ms. McDonald informed the Commissioners that Councilor Ives is working on a resolution to see if they can divert the water. Beaver ponds are fine.

Mr. Bove asked how much water the DeFouri construction can handle. Ms. McDonald said that she checks in weekly with Mr. Finley and he said that he has enough water.

Mr. Bove said that after the 22nd if they did not want to change the flows going in to the pond area and down the river they could be run through the Acequia Madre and return them back by Siler Rd. that has been done in the past instead of slowing down the releases. The slow flows will get it down the river.

Mr. Pierpont said we need to make sure there is water at the San Isidro crossing for the May 15th River Blessing.

Ms. McDonald said that she will need to talk to Mr. Finley and staff but it has been reiterated that there is enough water. Mr. Hook said that last year they started with 6 CFS about 8 am to get it down to San Isidro and basically lowered the by pass flows to 3 CFS.

Ms. McDonald said that looking at the graph they have allowed for the blessing. She sated they will also have water for the Jewish celebration and the fishing derby.

Mr. Hook suggested moving the date to the 30th @ 2CFS's which would get to 739 acre feet.

Mr. Pierpont stated that one outstanding thing was if they wanted to request that some of that flow is diverted. Mr. Puglisi said that they can do that administratively to assure there is water for the river blessing.

Mr. Pierpont said whether this commission wants to request that some of the water go through the reserve through the T&C property channel. Ms. McDonald said that would be fine and if they wanted to make it contingent, as she had called Mr. Finley inquiring about the need, she is sure he will welcome it but wants to make sure that they can handle it.

It was asked what the flow going in to McClure. Mr. Jacobi said that it is about 11, it was less than 8 CFS.

Mr. Jacobi asked if we would have the fishing derby this year and staff responded, yes. Staff will be meeting with Parks and Streets as they head up this event. Game and Fish has also inquired and they will hold fish in the hatchery for this event.

It was asked if the reservoirs will get up higher than 40%, combined. Mr. Hook said that with the yield at 2900 acre feet they could easily get to 80% but he needs to work on the numbers and review the combination. 2,900 acre feet are the project snow pack yield and that is strictly for April-July. Most of the yield from the snow pack comes by end of July.

MOTION: Mr. Jacobi moved to release the 70 acre feet (2 CFS per day) of linear overflows between now and the end of April based on staff recommendations, second by Mr. Pierpont, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Zoe asked if we need to send water down the Nature Conservancy because if you send water down the channel they are getting water anyway due to the seepage, they will get water either way. Shouldn't we just keep the channel hydrated. Ms. McDonald will check to see what they need and work with both entities.

Mr. Hook said that if we keep it going down the by-pass channel, they are working on a contract for the contractor on the hydrology and hydrogeological services so they will be monitoring stream flow to see how far it is going. They will kick off in May, for sure by June to start the seepage study. They will also monitor below 2-mile pond, so they will be moving forward to understand how much that percentage actually streams off even if we keep all the channels flowing.

There was a discussion related to CIP and offers from the owner as well on this property. Ms. McDonald was clear to say that staff is not authorized to make any decisions regarding this topic of discussion and staff is asking Council to make recommendations and direction to staff. It isn't that the Council said "don't do anything, it is more like there is uncertainty on how we should handle this situation and it is moving up. The Council is working on it and Councilor Ives is in particular

taking charge; we should see recommendations from him in the future. Ms. McDonald reiterated that we can bring things forward but the council will be making the decisions. The River Commission requested that more permanent solutions be explored.

Ms. McDonald expressed her thanks for the Commissioners providing her with what they see on the water flow.

- **Bioremediation Project (Bobbe Besold)** *(Pictures provided on the overhead)*
Bobbe is a researcher and artist and volunteer with Santa Fe River Traditional Community Collaborative which meets in La Cienega every other month. There are a lot of people interested in the wastewater treatment plan, Andrew from the City comes to meetings, and Mr. Puglisi will come to the next meeting to present so there are city/county entities that participate. It is a lot of people involved with the Santa Fe River and at times Cochiti representatives attend. The representative from the Natural Resources Department from Cochiti attended a meeting in October and said that they had been water testing in the Rio Grande and La Bajada and said that the Department of Energy had found high levels of pharmaceuticals and synthetics in the water at La Bajada. The conversation from the collaborative went to the question, what could they do. A gentleman from Agua Fria Village asked about bio-remediation. Ms. Besold volunteered to research that. She considers herself a citizen Scientist and did a great deal of research and provided details from her findings. She learned that Santa Fe Art Institute currently has a residency program called the Water Rights Residency. There are people from all over the country and the world that are working with water. In January a woman named Jan Martin from Brooklyn, NY who works with fungi met with Ms. Besold and learned that Amy was going to be there and doing a residency. This resulted in the three ladies entering in to this project. Mr. Puglisi did share with Ms. Besold that it could be that the water that came out in the water test from La Bajada was probably not from there but from septic systems. Amy stated that they decided to experiment with field methods for mycelium. They had bags of mycelium which they ordered from a company called Mushroom Mountain that grows different varieties of mycelium and how they are used as food or for medicinal reasons. The method they chose was the simple method (explained on the oversight), basically they take straw, soak them, use hydrogen peroxide diluted to sterilize it. More results will be shared after the project is complete. They will continue to look for funding or find out if these tests have been done by others. Thank you.

Mr. Bove asked if there was any concern regarding invasive species coming in, i.e., Chinese Elms? Ms. Besold said that some of the species they are working with are native species already so people collect them here; they will be mindful of this concern. Ms. Besold said that they are looking at what is in the soils along the water way. They will determine what to sample and asked for input from the group. Mr. Bove stated that it would be good for them to speak to Game and Fish Department since they have a very good invasive species program. It was also recommended that they start research on the contaminants from the south. Just because it is in the water does not necessarily mean it is being absorbed or taken up by the adjacent soil.

It was asked if the group has spoken to the Treatment Plant; they have some significant micro-biologic expertise and access to a lot of testing data.

- **Dreaming Water Houses Update (Bobbe Besold)**

Ms. McDonald provided history from a past meeting where she informed the commissioners that Ms. Bobbe Besold would be installing dream houses and parks would help them plant and she is here today to provide an update. Ms. Besold also works with a group named River Runs Through Us. In 2012 she started a project starting at the Santa River & Water Shed with 2 other women, Valerie Martinez and Dominique. Each year they have done projects along the Santa Fe River to create awareness. She has heard a lot of people call our river an arroyo which is very upsetting. 2014 – Started the dreaming water houses project, they had 5 of them made. The houses are made to contain information, it can be visual art, poetry, science, anything that is related to the watershed or water so people would approach these and have something to look at and read. This particular one is at the Commons at Frenchy's field side by the Santa Fe River. Each of the 5 houses will be sponsored by a group. Santa Fe Parks & Rec will install one permanently along the river; the other 4 were detailed verbally. They work with the sponsors and Parks & Recreation to assure it is a good place. The sponsors are responsible for the house itself and the area around it.

Ms. McDonald asked what the cost is. Ms. Besold said there will be no cost; they have acquired a grant to build the houses.

- **Santa Fe Water Charter (David Groenfeldt, Anthropologist – Water Culture Institute) - Water Charter – Exhibit B – Next Generation Water Summit**

Mr. Groenfeldt started the Water Culture Institute and works with values and ethics. He is setting up seminars and is focusing in on medicine, public health, what would we look like without medical ethics, we do not have one in natural resources management. We are trying to develop value principles that can guide how the community uses water. He stated they are using the term Water Charter which would a list of principles and is intended to be a decision tool that compliments the law economic analysis and all that we already employ to make decisions. The reason is that laws are based on values and as we know, there are a lot of things that laws don't cover and there could be a lot of damage if there are no ethics. The International Water Association has 17 Principles for Water Rights and they are being written into an Urban Water Charter. They are also working on a Basin Water Charter. Mr. Groenfeldt stated that what they are trying to do with their Santa Fe Charter is to document the values that people already have. His job is to poll people as to what values they have on the river and help write that in to a charter. The role model we have for a city that has done provides quality guidance (handout viewed on the overhead). Examples of what other cities do were provided, one example that in places like Flint and Detroit to this day continue to shut water off if they can't pay. Shutting people for non-payment internationally is considered a technical water violation but it is not observed because legally it does not have to be. That does not happen here, this is purely an example. Mr. Groenfeldt would like a charter because he does live here and there will be changes with climate change

and it would be so good to hear what the community would like to have. Workshops are expensive and will save them for further down the line so they are focusing on community interviews, focus group discussions and digesting the literature and coming up with a version of what a Santa Fe set of value principles are. One strategy is finding language that has a little bit of legal direction and the other is hashing out ways that we can discuss the need and want of water, extra water down the river. Along with the Charter he would like to see an Annual Meeting, Symposium to include the City River Commission, Santa Fe Watershed Association, Water Culture Institute – maybe a ½ day on what is going on with our water system, river trails, and information to the public and include information on the Charter and feedback once it is in effect. The process is a 1-year process and they do have funding for this project and once it is developed the hope is for it to support other initiatives that are going on.

It was recommended that a resource, to call (Elizabeth Kristin Keller) she is a Road Scholar, Water Quality specialist, was a Professor at UNM, a good person to talk with.

- **River Commission Priorities & Goals (John Buchser) Exhibit C - Goals**
Discussed the document that was set up last fall. He is still in agreement that the Commissioners still need to work on doing more dialogs with the City Council.

Short Term Goals (1 year or less)

- Target Flows” Resolve Santa Fe Canyon Preserve Flow – Ranking 1 – we have made movement with the Councilors but no resolution.
- Promoting the Living River Fund – Ranking 2 – by virtue of the resolutions that Ms. Doremus and others worked on were presented to two of the committees and we are doing more dialogs with the Council.

In terms of ranking, Mr. Buchser said they should segregate those that are ties, potentially figure out which should become priority.

- Create and update for the 1995 River Corridor Plan – that is a question of who is going through it. This should be something that the commissioners can take on.
- Create and Electronic Library of SF River Resources – this one is also rising higher, chair is having a hard time finding things. That Chair has started to work on this item as he sees this as considerable value.
- Support of Rain Garden Design/Construction Concepts – Ranking 4
- Support Target Flows/Living River to Agua Fria and beyond – Ranking 4
- Support Species Resiliency, Arroyo & Watershed systems, wildlife.

The Chair stated that they are half way through the time period on the short term goals and some progress has been made. Goal was to finish these within a year and this is the reason for ranking so commission can re-prioritize and accept any offers to help.

Ms. Doremus asked for clarification on on-going goals, maybe we should consider moving some of these target goals to meeting terms in order to have a monitored report of work being done and how do we determine medium term?

The Chair said the original vision was that concepts that could potentially be resolved in a given time frame, that was the general thought. We would not have problems if we had staff to follow through with these goals; our staff is working to heightened levels as is. The Chair said how do we actually engage progress on these goals? Members of this commission are a clear resource. The Chair said he has no problem moving items from short term to medium term and if the recommendation is to merge goals, he has no problem with this.

Mr. Patorni stated that some of these goals although they may be noted as completed will remain on-going. This is the difficulty when talking about short term and medium term; some are goals and will have an end date.

Ms. McDonald said that some of the items listed could be over-arching goals looked at as events and bringing in volunteers and concerned entities to move things forward after identified.

It was felt that there is too much on the list to split between commissioners and staff. Commission members are appreciative of the Goals Listing.

The Chair would like to have an annual dialog with the community on accomplishments.

Ms. McDonald said that she is very generous with her time but the protocol for actual direction from the commission on work assignments have to go through the City Manager. She is one staff person and helps to respond to the Commission at all time, but duties and responsibilities need to be cleared with the City Manager based on her time and commitment to the Santa Fe River Commission.

The Chair said he would like to continue to review this list on an annual basis.

Items listed below will be heard at next month's meeting.

6. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

7. MATTERS FROM STAFF

- Alameda Rain Gardens Update
- Tabling Opportunity, Earth day, April 22nd

8. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

9. SUB-COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSION – deferred to next meeting.

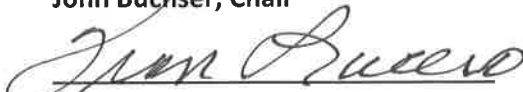
- Outdoor Economy
- Promoting a Living River
- Watershed Revitalization
- Species Resiliency

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the Chair called for adjournment at 8:00 pm.

Signature Page:

John Buchser, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer